

## Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 RSR-01 /140 W  
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R 020759 Z APR 73

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1485

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ELAB, PINS, SF

SUBJECT: KWAZULU GOVT CHALLENGES SAG OVER ALUMINUM STRIKE

REF: DURBAN 144

1. SUMMARY: BY CHAMPIONING ZULU STRIKES AT RICHARDS BAY ALUMINUM SMELTER AND INSISTING THAT ZULU LABOR FOR WHITE AREAS MUST HENCEFORTH BE UNDER ITS CONTROL, KWAZULU GOVT HAS CHALLENGED SAG TO IMPLEMENT ITS SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT PHILOSOPHY IN HIGHLY SENSITIVE LABOR RELATIONS FIELD . IT SEEMS DOUBTFUL THAT SAG WILL COMPLY. END SUMMARY.

2. RICHARDS BAY ALUMINUM SMELTER STRIKE WAS ELEVATED FROM STRAIGHTFORWARD INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE TO CONFRONTATION BETWEEN SAG AND KWAZULU GOVT THROUGH FORCEFUL INTERVENTION IN SITUATION BY KWAZULU COUNCILLOR FOR COMMUNITY AFFAIRS B. I. DLADLA ON  
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MARCH 30. DESPITE BLUNT PUBLIC WARNING IN DURBAN BY SENATOR HORWOOD, MINISTER INDIAN AFFAIRS AND TOURISM, THAT KWAZULU GOVT SHOULD KEEP ITS NOSE OUT OF STRIKE SINCE IT WAS TAKING PLACE IN A WHITE AREA, AND DESPITE EARLIER ADAMANT REFUSAL ALUSAF MANAGEMENT TO NEGOTIATE WITH HIM, DLADLA CARRIED OUT HIS THREAT TO ADDRESS STRIKERS ASSEMBLED ON FIELD NEAR SMELTER ON MORNING MARCH 30. ACTION TAKEN AFTER CONSULTATION WITH CHIEF BUTHELEZI AND REPORTEDLY WITH FULL SUPPORT KWAZULU CABINET. IN LIGHT HIS PLANNED ACTION, SMELTER MANAGEMENT RELENTED AT LAST MINUTE AND MET WITH HIM JUST PRIOR TO HIS SPEECH. IT REFUSED HOWEVER MAKE ANY CONCESSIONS BEYOND ITS OFFER OF R2 PER WEEK WAGE INCREASE (DURBAN 143).

3. IN OBVIOUSLY BELLIGERENT MOOD, DLADLA TOLD STRIKERS OF HIS FAILURE WIN ANY CONCESSIONS WHATSOEVER FROM MANAGEMENT. URGED STRIKERS CONTINUE WITH THEIR JUST STRIKE AND PROMISED KWAZULU GOVT WOULD DO ALL IN ITS POWER PREVENT OTHER ZULUS REPLACING THEM: " ONLY SELL- OUTS WILL GIVE THEIR SERVICES TO ALUSAF". IN SIGNIFICANT NEW DEPARTURE, DLADLA INSISTED THAT KWAZULU GOVT HAD RIGHT AND DUTY TO SPEAK ON BEHALF ZULU WORKERS WHEREVER EMPLOYED. ALL RECRUITMENT OF ZULU WORKERS SHOULD HENCEFORTH BE DONE THROUGH KWAZULU GOVT AND, SPECIFICALLY, HIS DEPARTMENT. " WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR WELL BEING OF EVERY ZULU IN COUNTRY" AND IF SAG REFUSED RECOGNIZE THIS SITUATION IT WOULD, HE SAID, MAKE MOCKERY OF WHOLE BANTUSTAN CONCEPT. RECRUITMENT OF NEW ZULU LABOR FORCE BY SMELTER MANAGEMENT WITHOUT PERMISSION HIS DEPARTMENT WOULD PROVE THAT " KWAZULU IS NOT A GOVERNMENT". POSSIBLY AS RESULT DLADLA SPEECH, ALUSAF MANAGEMENT HAS OFFERED RE- EMPLOY STRIKERS, WHO WERE ALL PAID OFF ON MARCH 30, RATHER THAN ENGAGING NEW EMPLOYEES.

4. MAANWHILE ARMY PERSONNEL CONTINUING ASSIST IN KEEPING ESSENTIAL OPERATIONS GOING. HEAVY POLICE UNITS CALLED TO STRIKE AREA HAVE NOT INTERVENED TO BREAK STRIKE, ALTHOUGH SOME 30 STRIKERS HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN ARRESTED FOR CARRYING " DANGEROUS" WEAPONS ( TRADITIONAL ZULU STICKS).

5. COMMENT: DLADLA'S SPEECH REFLECTS CHIEF BUTHELEZI'S KNOWN POSITION THAT KWAZULU GOVT MUST UPHOLD RIGHTS OF ALL ZULUS WHEREVER THEY MAY BE LIVING AND NOT JUST THOSE IN KWAZULU HOMELAND CONSISTING PRINCIPALLY OF WOMEN, CHILDREN AND OLD MEN. THIS WOULD SEEM TO BE IN ACCORD WITH SAG'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OWN BASIC APPROACH TO SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT, AS WITNESSED,  
FOR EXAMPL E, BY PARTICIPATION IN RECENT BOPHUTATSWANA AND  
CISKEI ELECTIONS OF " CITIZENS" THOSE HOMELANDS LIVING IN  
WHITE AREAS. BUT, JUDGING FROM SENATOR HORWOOD' S TOUGH  
WORDS, IT APPEARS THAT SAG IS UNWILLING TO SEE THIS CONCEPT  
CARRY OVER INTO VITAL FIELD OF LABOR RELATIONS.  
HOLMES

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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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